

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application with claims 4, 24 and 27 having been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 24 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Uda in view of Zidel; claims 25, 26, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Uda in view of Zidel and further in view of Vo et al.; and claims 1-23 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent claims 24 and 27 have been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claims 7 and 8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 24 and 27 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau** at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 09/916,691
Amendment Dated: November 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Docket No. K-286

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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